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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25X1

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Silesian Footwear Establishment in
Otmec

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1. A report on the Silesian Footwear Establishment (Slaskie Zaklady Przemyslu Obuwniczego) in Otmec (N 50-29, E 17-58), which occupies the premises of t25X1 prewar Bata Shoe Factory

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COUNTRY : Poland

DATE: 25 September 1957

SUBJECT : Silesian Footwear Establishment in Otmet

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1. The Silesian Footwear Establishment (Slaskie Zaklady Przemyslu Obuwniczego) in Otmet (N 50-29, E 17-58) was located on the eastern bank of the Oder River across from Krapkowice (N 50-29, E 17-58). It occupied the premises of the pre-war Bata Shoe Factory. It had been enlarged after WW II, and the construction of an additional production hall, which had been started in 1956, was in May 1957 almost completed and the machinery already installed. The establishment was regarded as one of the largest and most modern in Poland. All main factory buildings were of steel-concrete construction and had five stories.¹ The establishment also had its own railroad siding, which [redacted] was connected with the main railroad line at the railroad station in Gorazdze/Waldenstein (N 50-32, E 18-01); the station also had large loading and unloading platforms.

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2. In the spring of 1957, Chief Director Kopalinski (fnu) was in charge of the Silesian Footwear Establishment. He was regarded as a good manager and a specialist in the footwear industry. Marian Jazuchowski was chief of the Industrial Planning Department.
3. In June 1957, the establishment had about 6,000 employees, of whom about 10 percent were administrative employees and the remainder production employees. About 50 percent of the workers were women. The majority of the workers were young and from neighboring villages; they were brought daily to work by a specially-organized transportation service, furnished by the establishment. Employee wages were based on a standard scale of the footwear industry and were dependent upon the implementation of norms or were calculated by piece work. The net wages ranged from

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570 to 1,400 zlotys monthly, but a skilled cutter who worked on a piece work basis was able to earn about 3,000 zlotys net. The average net wage for a foreman was about 2,000 zlotys monthly. In addition to their salaries, all employees received about 150 kilograms of coal and 50 kilograms of firewood monthly for a nominal price which was much lower than the regular market price. [redacted] thefts and irregularities were committed by the workers, and it was always possible to buy some leather in town which had been stolen from the establishment.

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4. The establishment produced all types of mens', ladies' and childrens' shoes. There was also a department producing "P 11" soldiers' shoes, belts, and other leather articles for the armed forces [redacted]

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[redacted] Production was mechanized on the conveyor-belt system, and the establishment operated on two shifts with the exception of the cutters' (przykrawacze) department which worked on one shift. The cutters' department prepared leather and other materials for the conveyor belt production departments and [redacted] worked mostly at night.

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5. [redacted] the production plan for 1956 was not implemented because of shortages and irregular supplies of raw materials. [redacted] in 1956 the Silesian establishment worked on only one shift for a period of time. Up to June 1957, the 1957 production plan had not yet been approved and the establishment worked according to a temporary production plan. The establishment received supplies of leather, mainly of home production but some imported from [redacted] Yugoslavia, as well as other materials by arrangements with the Central Administration of Footwear Industry of the Ministry of Light Industry. [redacted] the Silesian establishment enjoyed a high reputation among the other footwear establishments under the Central Administration of the Footwear Industry. ²

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6. [redacted] equipment and machinery [redacted] was modern and well-maintained. ³ The establishment had its own electric power station but also used the current from the national electric power net; it also had its own pump station on the bank of the Oder River, as well as a boiler house by which, in addition to the necessary steam for production, all buildings were centrally heated.

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7. The establishment had its own housing development for permanent employees consisting of about 30 large apartment houses. It also had school, nursery, and kindergarten facilities. The establishment expended large sums of money for welfare and sport facilities for its employees. It also operated a Workers' Supply Branch (Oddzial Zaopatrzenia Robotniczego) which had its own grocery, household goods store, tailor, and shoemaker as well as a restaurant, canteen and movie theater. In addition, the Workers' Supply Branch operated a 500-hectare farm, the produce of which was sold to the employees.

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8. The Basic Party Organization (POP) of the establishment was completely reorganized after October 1956. Chomonciuk (fnu), who had previously been expelled from the Party, was readmitted after October 1956 and appointed POP Secretary. There was a very active Socialist Youth Union (Związek Młodzieży Socjalistycznej) at the establishment and also a Club of Young Intelligentsia (Klub Młodej Inteligencji), to which young technicians, engineers, and medical doctors from outside the establishment belonged. A Workers' Council (Rada Zakładowa) was to be set up in the establishment but as of June 1957 was still in the organizational stage.

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